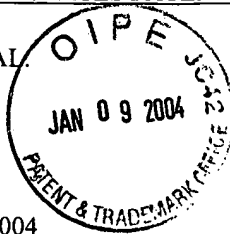


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KUSLICH ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN  
 Serial No.: 10/627,589 Group Art Unit: 3732  
 Filed: JULY 25, 2003 Docket: 6683.13USC4  
 Confirmation No.: 2967  
 Due Date: JANUARY 6, 2004  
 Title: LAPAROSCOPIC SPINAL STABILIZATION SURGICAL METHOD



**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 6, 2004.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Judith Tess*

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Preliminary Amendment
- ☒ Notice to File Missing Parts of NonProvisional Application - Part 2
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449
- ☒ Check(s) in the amount of \$1,080.00 for: basic fee (\$770), 10 additional claims (\$180), and surcharge (\$130).
- ☒ Return postcard

**CLAIMS AS AMENDED**

Claims Remaining After Amendment		Highest Number Previously Paid For		Present Extra		Rate		Fee
Total Claims								
30	-	0	=	10	x	18.00	=	\$180.00
Independent Claims								
2	-	0	=	0	x	.00	=	\$ .00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM FEE								\$ .00
TOTAL FILING FEE basic fee \$770 and surcharge \$130 = \$900								\$1080.00

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
 P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
 612.332.5300

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: David G. Schmaltz  
 Reg. No.: 39,828  
 DSchmaltz/AS/jt

*David G. Schmaltz*